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THE WILCOX FAMILY.

By W. H. WHITMORE.

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THE WILCOX FAMILY.

IT seems that William Wilcox, of Cambridge, who died Nov. 28, 1653, in his will dated two days before (Reg. xvi. 76), mentions his wife then sick. (See appendix C.) From the Rev. Lucius R. Paige I learn that William Wilcox m. Mary Powell, Jan. 22, 1650.

On our Boston records (Reg. xi. 200) I find "Jacob Elliot was married to Mary Wilcock, widow, 9 : 11 : 54 : by Capt. Humphrey Atherton."

Savage indeed writes: "Wilcox, John, Dorchester, whose young widow m. 9 Jan'y, 1654–5, Jacob Eliot." But in this he was clearly wrong. On the Dorchester records (MS. vol. i. pp. 135, 141) it seems indeed, that a John Wilcox was in the spring of 1661 and of 1662, twice appointed a fence viewer. He m. widow Mary Farnsworth, and deeds land in 1661 and 1665. But this proves too much, for this John did not have a widow six years before. I find no other John Wilcox in Dorchester, and this John was certainly the Middletown man. We must look elsewhere for Eliot's wife.

It seems therefore almost certain that Jacob Elliot, Jr.'s wife was Mary, widow of William Wilcox, of Cambridge; since she was a widow and the only one we know of.

Leaving out of sight some early settlers of the name in Rhode Island, we find that there was a John Wilcox, of Hartford (Hinman, first ed. 98), surveyor of highways 1642 and 1644, juror 1645, called senior in 1648 (Trumbull's Conn. Rec. i. 172), selectman in 1649. He must have died before Oct., 1666, when his widow makes her will.

His widow Mary's will was dated Oct. 4, 1666: she mentions dau. Ann Hall, cousin (*i. e.* grand-child) Sarah Long, son John Bidwell. An abstract of this and other papers will be found in Appendix A.

It is evident as the father is called John, Sen., in 1648, that he then had a son John, Jr., of adult age, and we identify this latter with

JOHN WILCOX, of Hartford, who m., first, Sarah, dau. of William Wadsworth, Sept. 17, 1646, and had:

i. Sarah, b. Oct. 3, 1648.

His wife dying, he m., second, January 18, 1650, Catherine Stoughton, moved to Middletown, and had several children, viz.:

ii. John, b. Oct. 29, 1650; d. before his father.
iii. Thomas, d. before his father.
iv. Mary, b. Nov. 13, 1654; d. before her father.
v. Israel, b. June 19, 1656.
vi. Samuel, b. Nov. 9, 1658.

This wife dying, he m., third, Mary,[1] widow of Joseph Farnsworth, of Dorchester; before that, widow of —— Long, who died in 167 .

He m., fourth, Esther, dau. of William Cornwell, and had:

vii. Ephraim, b. July 9, 1672.
viii. Esther, b. Dec. 9, 1673.
ix. Mary, b. March 24, 1676.

He d. May 24, 1676. March 1, 1676–7 (Co. Court Rec. ii. 161), the court ordered distribution. On the inventory (409 L., iii. 4) it is noted: "The children of the deceased are, Sarah Long, near 28 years old; Israel, 20 year old; Samuel, Nov. 9, '76, 18 year old; Ephraim, 4 year old 9 July, 1676; Hester, 2 years old Dec. the last, 1675; Mary was born the 9, 1675–6."

These dates agree generally with the births as above recorded.

ANN (WILCOX) HALL. It is stated in the Wetmore genealogy, apparently from the Middletown records, that "Ann, wife of John Hall and daughter of John Wilcocke, died July 20, 1673, aged about 57." She was of course the daughter of John Wilcox, Sen. Her husband was John Hall, Jr., son of John of Hartford and Middletown, who had lived in New-England 40 years before his death in 1673.

Savage indeed doubts if she might not be a second wife of John Hall, Sen.; but this is impossible. First, as John Hall, Sen., died May 26, 1675, Anne would have been called his widow, not his wife, two months later.

Again, John Hall, Sen.'s will dated May 14, 1673, as copied by Mr. Trumbull, mentions son Richard Hall and his children, son John

[1] The proofs of this marriage are amply set forth in Appendix B.

Hall, children of daughter Sarah Wetmer, deceased, son Thomas Wetmer; gives 10 shil. towards a school; and gives the remainder of his estate to son Samuel Hall and his heirs.

But he mentions no wife, and it is incredible that he should have had one living but unnoticed.

We do not doubt then that the "An Haul" mentioned by the widow of John Wilcox, Sen., as her daughter, was Anne, wife of John Hall, Jr., and sister-in-law of Sarah Hall, wife of Thomas Whitmore, of Hartford, ancestor of the Wetmores of this country.

It is a coincidence certainly that whilst John Wilcox, Sen., of Middletown, had a dau. Ann who m. John Hall, Jr., of that place (sister-in-law of Sarah, wife of Thomas Whitmore), the Cambridge William Wilcox mentions in his will a sister, the widow Hall, whose children were William and Susan. We identify her with the widow Mary Hall, of Cambridge, who had children John, Susanna, Stephen, William, Mary, Hannah and Lydia.

It is curious that John Wilcox, Sen., had a dau. Ann Hall, and William Wilcox a sister Mary Hall; but this may point to some connection in England between John and William Wilcox, and between the Halls of Middletown and the Halls of Cambridge.

Francis Whitmore, of Cambridge, is mentioned by William Wilcox as one in his "family meeting." Now believing as we do that Jacob Eliot, Jr., m. the widow Wilcox, it is to be noted that Dea. John Whitmore (son of Francis) m. Rachel, dau. of Francis Eliot, own cousin to Jacob E., Jr., and Abigail Whitmore, sister of Dea. John, m. Samuel Wilcox, of Middletown, son of John W., Jr. Again, Mary Stoughton, niece of John Wilcox, Jr., and sister of the wife of Samuel Farnsworth, m. John Eliot, grandson of the Rev. John E., and cousin once-removed to Jacob, Jr., and to Rachel Eliot.

Although there was no known relation between Thomas Whitmore, of Middletown, and Francis Whitmore, of Cambridge, it is somewhat strange that Francis's oldest son, Francis, Jr., went to Middletown, as did two of his daughters, who m. respectively Daniel Markham and Samuel Wilcox. But if the Middletown Wilcoxes, Hills and Whitmores were relatives of the Cambridge Wilcoxes, Hills and Whitmores, then such a removal would be natural. These coincidences, added to the cross-marriages and the Eliot connections, seem to go far to render such relationships highly probable.

Leicestershire is bounded by the counties east by Lincoln and Rutland, south by Northampton, west by Warwick and Derby (Stafford almost touching it), north by Nottingham.

It is worthy of notice that the visitation of Leicestershire mentions the following families, giving pedigrees thereof, viz.: Wilcocks, Hastings, Fox, and Hall, rendering it desirable to examine the records of that county first, in order to find the origin of these colonists.

William Wilcox, of Cambridge, mentions particularly the son of the Rev. Thomas Shepard, "for whose father's sake I cannot forget him." This clergyman was born at Towcester, near Northampton, in the county of that name, Nov. 5, 1605; went to Emmanuel College, Cambridge, in 1620; was a lecturer of Earles-colne, co. Essex; then lived at Butterchrome, co. York, at Sir Richard Darley's house; then went to Northumberland; sailed from Harwich in 1634, was driven back by a storm, and lived at Bastwick, co. Norfolk; re-embarked and arrived in New-England, Oct. 3, 1635. He was settled in Cambridge, Mass., till he died, Aug. 25, 1649. Wilcox may mean by his words only such acquaintance as he had had with Shepard in Cambridge here, or he may refer to some knowledge of him in England.

Appendix A.

The following copies of wills and papers on record at Hartford have been most kindly made for me by J. Hammond Trumbull, Esq.

[Original on file. Recorded Prob. Rec. iii. 61.]

Will, Oct. 4, 1666, of *Mary Wilcock*, widow, of Hartford. To cousin *Sarah Long*, two pewter platters. To daughter *An Hall*, 40 shil. and best feather pillow. All other estate, after debts paid, and "charges about my comly buriall being discharged," to loving son *John Bidwell*, who is made sole executor. Dea. Butler and James Ensing intreated to be overseers.

Signed (by mark of) Mary Wilcock.

witnesses,

Richard Butler,
James Ensing.

Adm. granted Mch. 4, 1668–9—inventory, £40.

"Pr M^r^ Sam^ll^ Willys Capt. Jn^o^ Talcot Lt. Jn^o^ Allyn

Octob^r^ 29: 67. Upon y^e^ motion of Deacon Butler in behalf of the Widdow Wilcox, the Assis^ts^ doe see cause to order that John Wilcox doe pay unto his mother the said Widdow Wilcox or her Assignes six pounds a year in wheat and pease at price currant to be paid in Hartford where she or they shall appoint, which is in lieu of what he is engaged to pay unto her by his father's will. And y^e^ said John Wilcox is to possess and enioy the old house, the closset, and y^e^ fruit of y^e^ Orchyard which by y^e^ will of her husband she should possess, but throw weakness is disabled for continueing in y^e^ house to possesse it alone. The magestrates doe also determine that what rent is to be paid for y^e^ house and orchyard by the Jewes who have lived in it this year past, that it be paid to y^e^ said Widdow."

[Quarter Court Records, iii. 69.]

A County Court at Hartford, March 5, 1667–68.

"Upon the motion of Deacon Richard Butler & James Ensing, that some course might be taken that some might be impowered to dispose of the Widow Willcox & her estate to the best advantage, that there might be some comfortable satisfaction made to those that shall entertein her as long as her estate will afoard it, this Court refers the whole matter to the prudent management of the sayd Butler & Ensigne & doe hereby impower them to act in it."—[Ibid, p. 76.]

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Appendix B.

John Wilcox, of Hartford and Middletown, had for his first wife Sarah Wadsworth, and her sister m. Thomas Stoughton, Jr. Wilcox m., second, Catherine Stoughton, sister of Thomas S. and dau. of the Thomas Stoughton, Sen., who went from Dorchester to Windsor. Catherine had many relatives living in Dorchester, and her last child was born in Nov., 1658. Probably she died soon after, and John Wilcox m. a third wife Mary, who died in 1671.

We find at Dorchester a John Wilcox, who was fence viewer in 1661, 1662 (Dorchester Rec. MS. vol. i. pp. 131, 141); and on Suff. Deeds vii. 296, April 24, 1661, a deed from John Wilcox, of D., and Mary his wife, executrix of the will of Joseph Farnsworth, to William Pond. Also (Suff. Deeds xi. 359), March 17, 1664–5, deed of same John and Mary Wilcox, to Samuel Rigbee.

In the Register, ix. 140, is the will of Joseph Farnsworth above cited, made Jan. 2, 1659, speaking of his wife Mary, and her two

children by a former husband, viz., Joseph Long and Thomas Long. Joseph Farnsworth seems to have had a son Samuel Farnsworth, by this wife Mary, though he had other children, doubtless by a former wife.

On file at Hartford is the will dated April 3, 1671, of *Mary*, wife of *John Wilcox*, of Middletown, "declared by word of mouth." Gives to her son, *Samuel Fernsworth*, £10 stg., out of her land in the great lot at Dorchester. Remainder of the lot to her husband, John Wilcox. To her son, *Joseph Long*, the bill she had of him for land bought of her. "White was coat and red tammy coat." to *Mary Willcox*. To *Sarah Long*, her feather bed and bolster which is at Hartford in her house already, her "cloath wascoat with the great silver lace, and a petty coate." Freely resigns to her husband, J. W., his estate which was mortgaged to her. Desires that £10 given her son, Samuel Fernsworth, should be paid to her friend, Capt. Hopestill Foster, of Dorchester, to be kept till he come of age. Witnessed by John Hall and Anne Hall.

John Willcox owned in court, Sept. 7, 1671, that he gave his wife liberty to make her will.

These documents of course prove that John Wilcox, of Middletown, was the Dorchester man, and that his third wife was the widow Long–Farnsworth. I think it also certain that his step-son, Thomas Long, married Sarah Wilcox, dau. of John W. by his first wife. Such intermarriages are common and natural. Sarah Long, born in 1648, is reckoned among John Wilcox's children, just where his oldest dau. Sarah would be; no other step-children are so reckoned, and we may be sure Sarah Wilcox had married a Long. Savage records a Thomas Long, of Hartford, 1665, and we know not who he was, unless he was John Wilcox's step-son. We conclude therefore that Thomas Long married his step-sister Sarah Wilcox.

Again, Samuel Farnsworth, another step-son of John Wilcox, m. in 1677, Mary, dau. of Thomas Stoughton, Jr., a girl doubly a cousin to the children of Wilcox, with whom Farnsworth had been brought up. This may serve to indicate that the mixed households, of which John Wilcox was the head, lived in harmony and accord.

Appendix C.

The will is as follows:

I, *William Wilcockes* of Cambridge, although weake in Body, yet of sound mind, make this my last will. Just debts be Sattisfied, and the remainder of my estate, my wife shall have the use thereof dureing the time of her widowhood, and when it shall please the Lord to change her Condition, by marriage, or by death, whether shall first happen, my will is, that my estate shalbe thus divided; to my dear pastor, *Mr. Michell*, I give £5, to *Elder* Frost, £4, to my Couzen *John Woodes*, £10. To my Loving Brethren that were of my family meeting, viz^{t}. *Rog^{r}. Bancroft, Jn^{o}. Hasting, Tho. Fox, William Patten* and *Francis Whitmore*, I give 20^{s} a peece; to my sister, the *Widow Hall*, 20^{s}. and to her sonne *William*, and daughter *Susan*, I give 20^{s} a peece; to my honest Bro. *Richard Francis*, I give 20^{s}, and to my Bro. *Jn^{o}. Taylor*, I give 40^{s}; to Tho. Shepard (for whose fathers sake I cannot forget him) I give £5, and the remainder of my estate my will is, that it shall be thus divided; to my wife, in case the Lord doth lengthen out her life so that shee doth againe chang her condition by mariage, my will is that shee shall have the one halfe thereof; and in case the Lord shall take her away eyther before shee Recover of this present sicknes which is now upon her, or before her mariage, my will is, that shee shall then dispose and have to her Use only one fourth part of the remainder of my estate, after my debts & legacies are first payd, and the remainder of my estate I give to my sisters Children in old England, to be equally divided between them, who were the Children of my deare sister *Christian Boyden*. [*Boiden* in orig. will.] I appoynt for my Executors, my Loving wife and *Tho: Danforth*, whom I do desire to see this my will fulfilled.

26, 9 mo. 1653. per me William Wilcocks

Witness

Tho. Brigham his marke, Anne Hastings, Tho. Danforth.

Entered and recorded 22. 3 mo. 1654. Jany 3, 1653–4, depositions made. Inventory 22. 10 mo. 1653—deposition 3. 11 mo. 1653.

By the kindness of Mr. Thomas B. Wyman, I learn that the following memoranda is on the original will, both being in Danforth's handwriting:

Due to Bro Wilcockes in Barbados
Mr Collins
Sewall's bills left in the hands of Anthony Lane
Mr Collins and his wife to write to Capt Middleton &c
Due to Br Wilcocks in N. E from Edw Allen in Boston

Jno Smith
Mr Scott
Sugar at Capt Nortons
Goodm Jones
Longhome for Tho Danforth
Sent to Barbados by Jno Thrumble
4 firkins Butter to Anthony Lane
4 plowes &c to Christophe Line
Bro W Dr to Mr Tanner
Geo Chinery
Edw Hutchinson
I give to Jno Woodes, Mr Mitchell Br Patten ffranc: Whitmore Rogr Bancroft, widow Hall Jno Hastings Tho Fox 20^{s} a peese in Sug^{r} to Ri Frances, Jno Taylor Eld^{r} Frost, Tho Shepard W^{m} & Susan Hall 10^{s} a peece.

Here Thomas Danforth, overseer of Wilcock's will, calls him *Bro.* W. This may be only as a brother in the church. He was son of Nicholas Danforth, of Framlingham, co. Suff., and married Mary Withington, of Dorchester, in 1644. Her brother, Richard Withington, m. before 1650 Elizabeth, dau. of Philip Eliot. Another coincidence of Eliots.

It is to be added that I have failed to trace any land to Wilcox. Perhaps he owned none, but held personal property only. Otherwise it is difficult to see what became of the land, since either the Boydens or Eliots (if the widow m. Jacob Eliot, jun.) would have disposed of it some time.

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